

Population Estimates Program

Discussant Comments

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Summary Comments

- Critical program
 - Funding distribution
 - Local and regional planning
 - ACS base
- Always some tension between estimates and census counts
- New challenges
 - Census 2020: timing & quality
 - Differential privacy
- Contingency plans

Methods

- Cohort Component/ Administrative records
 - General improvements in records available for births/deaths
 - Migration
 - Inconsistencies in IRS migration data since filing year 2015?
 - Might the extension to filing taxes due to covid in 2020 could further introduce challenges?
- Housing Unit Method?
 - Housing units invariant in DP

A “Blended” Estimates Base?

- Later than normal Census 2020 data release
- Uncertainty in quality of Census 2020/DP application
- So, contingency planning and developing a “blended” base solution for 2020 (+?)
- Can you say more about the research testing data sources and models? Will a methodological document be released that specifies process of developing blended base?

Census & Estimates Evaluation

- Coverage Errors & Demographic Analysis study
 - Hard to know which (census or DA) is correct and in what ways
 - Differences by age– young children (census undercount) & college age (census overcount?), elderly (missing death records?)
 - Can't address sub-national differences, so E2
- E2: Compare estimates for 2020 with Census 2020
 - 3 sources of error. Which sources are contributing to differences and how?
 - Measures of Difference: MAPE. What about counties or cities with extreme errors (outliers)? What is the distribution like?
 - In 2010, only very small pop (<5K) units with higher MAPEs.
- ***What does it mean for PEP and for CB broadly if Census 2020 data aren't fit for use? Need to adjust the base for PEP.***

Differential Privacy & PEP

- PEP releases will be subject to DP application.
- Broadly- how is PEP adjusting to DP? What are the challenges? And how are they being addressed?
- Will PEP program have internal access to invariant data? If not, how will you know how much DP is impacting E2?
- What tests is PEP doing to explore potential impact of DP? What are you finding?
- How will DP impact the Challenge program?

Challenge Program

- How will DP impact the Challenge program? Will it be possible to challenge the base?
- Will it be possible to challenge using housing unit method in some cases?
 - Natural disasters, DP, etc.
- When can we expect Federal Register notice on challenge program to be published?